

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175372

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, ETRN, GE, WB, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT:MEETING WITH FRENCH ON BERLIN INTERNATIONAL AIR
SERVICES

REF: A) STATE 173332 B) STATE 146137 C) STATE 146934

1. SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT AND UK EMBASSY REPS AUGUST 9
EXPLAINED TO FRENCH EMBASSY REP US AND UK DECISION TO
EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING BERLIN AIR SERVICES
ON COMMERCIALLY COOPERATIVE BASIS, AND INVITED GOF
CONSIDER ACTIVE AIR FRANCE PARTICIPATION. FRENCH EMBOFF
EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT AIR FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE, AND
RAISED AGAIN KNOWN FRENCH RESERVATIONS ABOUT EXPANDING
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INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES FROM BERLIN. FRENCH

EMBOFF UNDERTOOK TO REPORT UK-US PROPOSAL TO PARIS AND TO OBTAIN FRENCH VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT WITHIN TEN DAYS.
END SUMMARY.

2. US AND UK REPS OPENED MEETING WITH FRENCH EMBOFF BY EXPLAINING UNUSUAL STEP OF DISCUSSING TRIPARTITE CIVIL AVIATION ISSUE IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN BONN FOR REASONS CITED PARA 3 REFTEL A. US REPS, SPEAKING WITH SUPPORT OF UK EMB OFF, THEN DEVELOPED HISTORY OF RECENT BA AND PANAM DIFFICULTIES WITH REGARD TO BERLIN AIR SERVICES ALONG LINES PARAS 2 THROUGH 5 REF B. THROUGHOUT THIS PRESENTATION US AND UK OFFICERS RECALLED LONG TRADITION OF TRIPARTITE

COOPERATION IN BERLIN CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOF WOULD PROVIDE ITS FULL POLITICAL SUPPORT TO EXPANDED BERLIN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES EVEN IF AIR FRANCE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE ON ACTIVE BASIS. US AND UK REPS STRESSED POLITICAL DESIRABILITY OF HAVING THREE ALLIES IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT OVER BERLIN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FACE OF SOVIET COMPLAINTS TO ALLIES AND THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD BE SERVED BY EXPANDED BERLIN AIR SERVICES.

3. FRENCH EMBOFF EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT AIR FRANCE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN PROPOSED SERVICES. HE ALSO REITERATED FRENCH RESERVATIONS ABOUT EXPANDING BERLIN INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES BEYOND PRESENT LEVELS, BECAUSE THIS COULD GENERATE SOVIET COMPLAINTS. US AND UK REPS REMINDED FRENCH REP THAT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS USING THE AIR CORRIDORS FROM WEST BERLIN HAVE LONG TRADITION, AND IN NO WAY CONTRAVENE PROVISIONS OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS.

4. FRENCH REP UNDERTOOK TO REPORT PRESENTATION TO PARIS AND SEEK TO OBTAIN GOF VIEWS ON SUBJECT PRIOR TO FIRST MEETING BETWEEN AIRLINES. (FYI ONLY: UK REP INDICATED BA PROBABLY WOULD BE PREPARED TO BEGIN TALKS WITH PANAM WEEK OF AUGUST 20, BUT PANAM HAS ADVISED DEPARTMENT IT WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER LABOR DAY. END FYI).

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5. US AND UK REPS DID NOT GIVE FRENCH DETAILS OF CAB AUTHORIZATION (PARA 1 REFTEL A) BUT DID CAUTION NEED TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPOSAL FOR PRESENT TIME.

6. EMBASSY SHOULD COORDINATE WITH UK TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS TO FRENCH ON CAA AND POLITICAL LEVELS IN BONN, DRAWING PARTICULARLY ON PARA 2 ABOVE AND PERTINENT PARTS OF REFS B AND C. KISSINGER

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